**November 28, 2016**

**SU 313 4:00 – 5:30 pm**

**Approved Senate Minutes**

Video: <https://sites.google.com/a/sou.edu/sou-faculty-senate-videos/november-28-2016>

**The meeting was called to order at 4:03 pm.**

**Present:** Alexander Tutunov (for Rhett Bender), Deborah Brown, Alison Burke, Prakash Chenjeri, Curtis Feist, Carol Ferguson, Andrew Gay, Marianne Golding, Dennis Jablonski, Laurie Kurutz, Rich May, Dorothy Ormes, Erik Palmer, Deborah Rosenberg, Larry Shrewsbury, Robin Strangfeld, and Ariel Tumbaga.

**Absent**: Laura Jones, Donna Lane, Steven Petrovic, Doug Smith, and Mark Tveskov.

**Guests**: Jackie Apodaca, Linda Schott, Susan Walsh, Jody Waters, Lee Ayers, and Brian Fedorek.

**Approval of Minutes from November 14**—The minutes from November 14 will be brought forth for approval at our January meeting.

**President’s report: Linda Schott**

* President Schott acknowledged the events at Ohio State University.
* 4:30-6:00—Please join President Schott for the Faculty holiday party, hosted by the cabinet and the Executive Council. Wear your ugly holiday sweater for a contest and prize. Encourage folks to attend.
* Sanctuary Campuses are under discussion. Dr. Schott is investigating the implications of this designation. She wants to ensure that any declaration SOU might make will not have ramifications for faculty or students later on. More information is needed before action can be taken.

**Provost’s Report: Sue Walsh**

* Candidates for Liz Shelby’s position will be on campus soon. Please attend if you can and provide feedback. Watch for resumes to be sent out soon.
* Legislative session is beginning soon.
* Without Buckley and Bates, we will have to work harder this session.

**IFS report: Donna Lane—**Lane was not in attendance.

**Advisory Council Report: Dennis Jablonski—**theStudent Success Committee was discussed at Advisory Council. Reports on the projects funded by Student Success money will be heard. A rubric is being created to evaluate effectiveness of the projects that were funded and implemented.

**Committee on Committees Update: Deb Brown—**Committees are mostly complete. In the future, we will populate all committees in the spring, so they are ready to go forth in the fall without delay.

**University Studies recommendations: Brian Fedorek**

* Three new courses have been unanimously approved: SOAN 355 (People and Forests), SOAN 372 (Social Inequality), and ENG 448 (Major Figures: James Baldwin).
* The SOAN are name changes to bring them in line with the new Division structure.
* Jablonski asked about the designation of the SOAN 355 as an H Strand. Where is the technology component in the course? Chenjeri explained that each course is evaluated, and various proficiencies can be either primary or addressed. Waters confirmed that all goals do not have to be primary.
* Gay moved to approve the courses brought forward by University Studies. Golding seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor and none opposed.

**Carpenter II Grant recommendations: Jackie Apodaca**

* Apodaca explained the process used by the Faculty Development Committee to award Carpenter II Grant money.
* $12,000 available and over $30, 000 requested.
* Apodaca read the awardees, along with the amount awarded and the event for travel.
* Shrewsbury moved to approve the recommendation
* Golding moved to waive the two-week rule, and Shrewsbury seconded. Motion passed with all in favor, none opposed. Kurutz abstained.
* Burke/Shrewsbury moved to accept and the motion passed with all in favor, none opposed. Kurutz abstained.

**Request for Ideas for Curricular Development (Goal #1)**

* Tutunov explained that all of his students are currently taking a foreign language.
* Ferguson asked about how this would apply to the Sciences.
* Golding wants to make language relevant for more than just degree requirements.
* President Schott would like to see more students study abroad, but she doesn’t know how to pay for this.
* Tutunov wonders how we make SOU more appealing to students—perhaps we offer more flexible degree programs, similar to that of the University of Florida, Gainsville, which offers “Co-Degrees,” which are streamlined paths to degrees rather than double majoring.
* Waters explained that by Sept of 2017, we need to have our mission clarified.
* Walsh explained that accreditors pointed out the challenge of our credit-heavy general education curriculum (University Studies). Perhaps this should be revisited to allow students more flexibility in their programs.
* Waters echoed Walsh’s point about the size of our general education program—we offer so much choice. Much may not line up with what students want to learn. Many bottlenecks and obstacles.
* Golding pointed out the Houses were originally supposed to provide more engaging topics for students. University Seminar does this to a small degree in the first year.
* Schott hopes that these sorts of discussions take place as we plan for the future. We can’t find a “one-size fits all” model. We need to recognize the diverse set of learners we serve.
* Palmer recognizes the difficulty in innovating. New ideas can fail. House model was large scale, but perhaps we could get good results from smaller interventions.
* Our current system makes it hard to try without the fear of failure. Maybe there is a way to maintain the coherence of our current Gen Ed but also create a channel for new interdisciplinary courses.
* Rosenberg suggested a two-week period that would allow for innovation (maybe between Thanksgiving and Christmas).
* Schott recognized the need for protected space for innovation, where faculty would not be penalized for taking a risk that might fail.
* Current issues with registration and faculty loading should not prevent innovation. The tail should not wag the dog.
* Walsh pointed out that some of these ideas involve “creating the wheel” because these are new concepts.
* Jablonski tried to explain why we’re discussing this—it’s a new opportunity to make things more interesting for students. Senate spends much time reacting to the requests/demands from others. This is an opportunity to address issues that we normally don’t have the time to consider.
* Waters explained that with the House model, we did have a campus conversation and did make innovation a safe endeavor. We have data from the years of the House, so that should not be discarded without taking the lessons learned.
* Ayers finds it exciting that we are looking at changes. Perhaps a second-year seminar that would carry students from USem into the major?

**New Business/Announcements:**

**By-Laws, ongoing adjustments?**

* Rosenberg explained that the final updates to the bylaws will be posted soon.

 **SOU Board of Trustees, visits?**

* Do we ask them to come to us or do we ask to go to them? Think about what we’d prefer. How much involvement do we want to have with the Board?
* Dr. Schott encourages Senate to keep the board functioning as a governing board, not as a management board.
* Ferguson asks for a more social opportunity for meeting with the board. The upcoming holiday party will provide one opportunity, but President Schott says that once a year, time could be made for this.
* Burke: APSOU meeting will be held from 3:30-5:30 in the Rogue River room tomorrow. Nominations close tomorrow.

**Adjournment**

**The meeting was adjourned at 5:20pm**